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Czechoslovakia: The Husak leadership has maintained domestic control so far but could face a more critical test today.

Police and security precautions have proved to be more than adequate to handle the situation, including resistance from some demonstrators in Prague last night. As yet, there appear to have been no significant disturbances in other parts of the country.

Most Czechoslovaks apparently intend to mark the anniversary of the Soviet invasion with passive resistance rather than civil unrest. Thousands of individuals probably will again attempt to demonstrate quietly in the streets of Prague today, but only a gross miscalculation by the authorities--such as brutal and massive police suppression--appears likely to stir the population-at-large to more violent reactions.

Moscow apparently is eager to avoid unnecessary trouble. Soviet troops have been carefully kept out of urban areas, where their presence could spark disturbances. Western attachés in Hungary, however, report sighting about 60 Soviet tanks and some artillery near the Hungarian-Czechoslovak border on 18 August. This force may have been moved to this area to prepare for contingencies in Czechoslovakia.

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USSR: Moscow now agrees that a seabeds treaty should be limited to weapons of mass destruction.

The new Soviet draft treaty presented in Geneva would prohibit all nuclear weapons as well as structures and launching facilities for storing and testing them. The Soviet representative at Geneva said that submarines, the major US consideration, would not be in violation of the treaty even if anchored to the ocean floor.

The Soviet draft's treatment of verification is also closer to the US position, no longer calling for inspection of the installations. The draft does state that the parties to the treaty should have the "right to verify" activities of other member states but "without interfering" with their freedom of the seas. The Soviet representative said, however, that entering the facilities would be considered as interference and thus forbidden.

The Soviet draft calls for the US to accept a maritime zone of 12 miles which is consonant with the position of most delegations at Geneva. The draft also states that the maritime zone should be measured from the baselines which define the territorial limits of coastal states.

On balance, the new draft treaty marks a significant Soviet move toward an agreement. The Soviet representative said that he was prepared to remain in Geneva until agreement can be reached. He also indicated that Moscow would like to have the US agree to a complete text in time for submission to the UN General Assembly next month.

[A member of the Soviet UN delegation admitted, however, that it was probably too late to obtain agreement before the opening of the General Assembly and laid blame in part on the bureaucracy in Moscow.]

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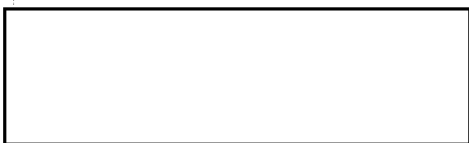
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